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Note by the Secretary-General

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

The present report has been prepared for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. Section I reviews the evolution of international instruments as they relate to human rights, democracy and development. A description of the role of UNDP and the Centre for Human Rights in providing technical cooperation is contained in section II, while section III focuses on three areas of technical cooperation for human rights and democracy as part of the development process: peace-building, electoral assistance and national capacity-building. Section IV presents some suggestions that could guide future technical cooperation activities.

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INTRODUCTION

1. One of the main items of the provisional agenda for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights is the "consideration of the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of all human rights, keeping in view the interrelationship and the indivisibility of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights".[1]/ As part of the preparatory process, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights have co-authored the present paper.

2. The focus of this report is technical cooperation for the promotion of human rights and democracy as part of the efforts to create an enabling environment for sustainable development. Selected country studies were carried out to identify some of the mechanisms used by the Centre for Human Rights and UNDP, in response to country requests, to achieve this goal. Other reports from the field were also consulted.[2]/

3. Section I presents a brief review of the evolution of international instruments as they relate to human rights, democracy and development. Section II contains a description of the role of the Centre for Human Rights and UNDP in providing technical cooperation, while section III focuses on three areas of technical cooperation for human rights and democracy as part of the development process: national capacity-building; peace-building; and electoral assistance. Section IV offers suggestions that could guide future technical cooperation activities.

I. SOME BASIC CONCEPTS

A. Human rights

4. The human rights concept encompasses civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The United Nations Charter requires all Member States to promote human rights everywhere. This obligation is an essential purpose of the Organization and, as such, extends to all United Nations bodies.[3]/

5. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 elaborated the human rights dimension contained in the United Nations Charter by setting forth a common standard for all peoples and nations. The Declaration was accepted and repeatedly affirmed by the General Assembly. Most of its principles are now recognized as part of customary international law. In 1968, the International Conference on Human Rights stated that the Universal Declaration "constitutes an obligation for the members of the international community".[4]/ The standards and goals of the Declaration remain constant although approaches to achieve them may differ from country to country.

6. The Declaration's principles and the more than 50 human

rights instruments it engendered are based on the concept of human dignity.[5]/ This concept is embodied in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration as well as in the preamble of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which were adopted in 1966. The two Covenants convert inalienable human rights into explicit treaty obligations and constitute international law that must be respected by those countries that have ratified them.

7. The Human Rights Committee and later the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were established to monitor the implementation of each Covenant.[6]/ Each Committee examines reports from the States that are parties to the Covenants. The examination enables the Committees to monitor the implementation of the Covenants through specific laws, policies and interventions and to ascertain whether these measures have produced improvements in the field of human rights. The Committees elaborate an autonomous interpretation and define the minimum core content of each right, thereby establishing minimum levels of protection and welfare.[7]/ Individual communications alleging violations of human rights submitted under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are dealt with by the Human Rights Committee.[8]/

8. The General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. The standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two International Covenants have been further elaborated in specific areas in several international conventions.[9]/

B. Democracy

9. It has been argued that democracy is a human right in itself by virtue of Article 21 of the Universal Declaration and Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In one of the preparatory documents for the World Conference on Human Rights, it is noted that many "established freedoms are necessary in a democratic society, including those of speech, assembly and association. Secret ballots in free elections, the rule of law, an independent judiciary, and judicial review of legislative and administrative actions are essential components of democracy".[10]/

10. Many international reports have referred to democracy as necessary for successful economic and social development. In particular, the South Commission states: "Democratic institutions and popular participation in decision-making are therefore essential to genuine development... Respect for human rights, rule of law, and the possibility to change governments through peaceful means are among the basic constituents of a democratic polity".[11]/ This view was reiterated in the report of the 1991 Stockholm Initiative on Global Security and Governance.

11. People's participation in development is considered to be an important aspect of the democratic process in the report of the Brundtland Commission and in Agenda 21, the plan of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as in regional documents, such as the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (1990 Arusha Declaration).[12]/ Throughout, people's participation in development is seen as the factor that links human rights, democracy and development.

C. Development as a human right

12. Over the last four decades, the international community has elaborated human rights standards for civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights which directly concern economic and social development. The right to development can be said to have its roots in Article 28 of the Universal Declaration, which states: "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized".[13]/ The 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development has synthesized civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.[14]/ It sets out individual and collective entitlements, as well as the obligations of States, both at the national and international level, to achieve them.[15]/ National and international development policies must be formulated and obstacles created by non-compliance with human rights must be eliminated.[16]/

13. Article 2 (1) of the Declaration states that "The human person is the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development". The central role of the human person in the development process was reaffirmed in 1990 at the United Nations Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right, which served to clarify these concepts further.[17]/

14. The Declaration also underlines the need to address development in a holistic manner, asserting in Article 6 (2) that "All human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent; equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights."

15. The 1990 Global Consultation on the Right to Development concluded that the right to development implies that human rights must be respected during the process of development. A similar conclusion was reached by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the basis of the international human rights covenants. Not only must development agencies avoid projects which infringe on human rights but, to the extent possible, they should seek to support projects that both contribute to economic growth and enhance the enjoyment of the full range of human rights. In particular, at every stage of a development project, every effort should be made to ensure that the rights set forth in the Covenants are taken into account.[18]/ The same conclusion

has been expressed by experts in scholarly writings.[19]/

II. TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROVIDED BY UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A. United Nations Centre for Human Rights

16. The United Nations Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme in the Field of Human Rights supports, at the request of Governments, concrete projects aimed at the establishment or strengthening of democratic institutions and national and regional infrastructures for the protection of human rights under the rule of law. In the late 1980s a significant revitalization and expansion of this programme came about in part due to the conclusions of special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights that in many instances practical assistance to countries could help remedy the situations and violations they were examining.

17. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights, in implementing this Programme, provides assistance for the inclusion of human rights norms in national constitutions, in the legal and technical aspects of democratic elections and in the development and revision of national legislation in conformity with international standards. Support is also provided for the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, including national commissions, ombudsmen, and human rights training and documentation centres.

18. In addition, the Programme provides assistance in establishing or strengthening an independent judiciary, and for training of national officials involved in the administration of justice, such as judges, lawyers, police and prison and military officials. Training materials directed to a variety of such professional audiences are currently being produced by the Centre for Human Rights in order to broaden dissemination of the principles covered by the courses themselves. Course and teaching material deal with gender discrimination, the particular needs of women and discrimination based on race, language, and other factors.

19. Other activities focus on curriculum development and teacher training in order to assist governments in their efforts to build a culture of human rights, beginning with the youngest members of society. Further, state officials, including those responsible for the drafting of periodic reports to the various United Nations treaty bodies, also receive training from the Centre for Human Rights. Finally, support and training are provided to national NGOs to strengthen civil society.

20. Creating public knowledge of human rights is another important aim of the Programme and recognizes the key role of NGOs and civil society in human rights protection. Briefings

are organized for NGOs and other groups and information and publications are made available on a wide basis. The translation of human rights documents into local languages and the preparation of a range of information materials are other important elements of the Programme.

21. The Programme also provides support for regional and sub-regional human rights activities. For example, assistance is provided to the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, to the independent African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights in Banjul and the Arab Institute of Human Rights in Tunis. Regional conferences and seminars are conducted with a view toward furthering dialogue on particular regional needs and problems in the field of human rights.

22. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights, in administering this Programme, increasingly seeks to respond to a government's request for assistance by conducting a careful assessment of that country's particular human rights assistance needs. Assistance programmes are then designed to address those needs in a comprehensive and coordinated way. Specific programme elements are financed and administered by the most competent international agencies or organizations, or on a bilateral basis. The Centre for Human Rights directly implements those projects for which it has a unique or specific competence, drawing on the considerable expertise developed by its staff in those areas, and serves as a focal point and coordinator for other programme elements relating to the human rights needs of the country involved. In the implementation of the projects under the advisory services programme the Centre for Human Rights co-operates closely with the UNDP Resident Representative and in that connexion the Centre receives both active support and guidance.

23. The Programme is funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. In addition, projects are receiving increasing support from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, which began operating in 1988 and to date has received over $6 million in contributions.[20]/ The projects described in the present document provide a partial view of the activities undertaken by the Centre for Human Rights within the Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Co-operation in the Field of Human Rights.

B. United Nations Development Programme

24. One of the main purposes of UNDP technical cooperation, shared with other agencies of the United Nations system, is to build national capacity that can reduce or prevent blatant socio-economic disparities that could create social tensions and prejudices as well as conditions for massive violations of human rights.

25. UNDP shares the view that, in general, a greater level of social and economic development increases the possibilities for recognition of and respect for civil and political rights.

Support for national social and economic development can both contribute to the realization of the right to development and create an enabling environment for the respect for all human rights. Furthermore, a strong civil society ensures that these rights are nurtured and respected.

26. The international community has more than a purely monitoring role to play. The debt burden, barriers to free trade and the free movement of populations, and other international economic issues must be addressed by the international community in terms of their impact on the ability of developing countries to establish and maintain sustainable development. Otherwise, there is a risk of dissociating one set of rights from the others.[21]/

27. Since 1990, UNDP has contributed to the development debate through its annual Human Development Report, which puts people at the centre of development, both as participants in, as well as beneficiaries of, the development process. It refers to development of the people, for the people and by the people, as is set out in the Declaration on the Right to Development.[22]/

28. Several of the special areas of focus for the UNDP $4.6 billion fifth programming cycle (1992-1996) directly address the integration of human rights in development and are being incorporated into its overall programmes and projects.[23]/ Disadvantaged groups are targeted through specific activities such as poverty alleviation programmes. More effort is being made to ensure people's participation in the development process by supporting people's organizations and by seeking ways to involve the people at all stages of programme formulation and implementation. These approaches are reflected in the majority (86 per cent) of the 93 UNDP country programmes approved for 1992-1996.

29. Efforts are being redoubled to integrate women in development programmes as participants and beneficiaries. Training programmes are conducted to overcome the lack of understanding of gender issues, a main obstacle to the inclusion of women in development. These concerns have been addressed in 77 per cent of the country programmes approved for 1992-1996.

30. Concern for human rights and democracy is also often reflected in public management programmes, which address issues of decentralization, accountability, transparency, and people's participation, as well as legislative capacity and the independence of the judiciary. These are all aspects of what has come to be known as good governance; as such, they sustain social development and economic growth and help to promote the democratic process. Almost all of the UNDP country programmes approved for 1992-1996 (93 per cent) address management development issues.

31. The environment is increasingly recognized as a key element for survival. Environmental awareness and action help to ensure that today's development does not compromise the ability of

future generations to meet their needs, a dimension of human rights highlighted by the Brundtland Commission, and reinforced in Agenda 21 at the 1992 Earth Summit. Environmental concerns have been incorporated into most (87 per cent) of the 93 UNDP country programmes approved for 1992-1996. Other UNDP-supported programmes link questions of social justice and development, such as the HIV-AIDS programme, which seeks to increase understanding of the pandemic and to prevent discrimination against those affected. Some UNDP country programmes have responded to government requests for direct support to human rights bodies and other organizations of civil society, including indigenous peoples' associations.

32. In 1983, the Commission on Human Rights called for closer cooperation between UNDP and United Nations bodies concerned with questions of international cooperation to promote human rights. Cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and UNDP on comprehensive human rights programmes began in Colombia in 1989, followed by Paraguay in 1990. Also in response to direct requests from governments, UNDP has offered administrative and substantive support to the programmes of the Centre for Human Rights through its extensive network of field offices and its resident representatives, who are normally the resident coordinators of the United Nations system. In 1993, the Commission on Human Rights called for enhanced cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and UNDP in the field of advisory services and technical cooperation, particularly for the elaboration of programmes and the distribution of human rights materials, and in other areas.[24]/

III. EXPERIENCE FROM THE FIELD

33. This section reports on selected experiences concerning technical cooperation provided by United Nations Centre for Human Right and UNDP in response to country requests for assistance in capacity to protect human rights in relation to free and fair elections, in strengthening national support of peace and reconstruction efforts, and in providing electoral assistance as part of the process of political, social and economic development.

34. The fact that these elements are interrelated was underscored by the Secretary-General in An Agenda for Peace, which emphasizes the "connection between democratic practices - such as the rule of law and transparency in decision-making - and the achievement of true peace and security in any new and stable political order. These elements of good governance need to be promoted at all levels of international and national political communities". The Secretary-General stated that the "authority of the United Nations system to act in this field would rest on the consensus that social peace is as important as strategic or political peace".[25]/

A. Peace-building

35. In his Agenda for Peace, the Secretary-General stated that the United Nations system should work with the "underlying economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems" of a conflict in order to prevent its recurrence. In addition to supporting post-conflict reconstruction, the United Nations system has an obligation to support, when requested, the strengthening of new democratic institutions.

Central America

36. In Central America, UNDP was requested, as stated in General Assembly Resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988, to implement the $470.5 million Special Plan for Economic Cooperation (PEC), a support mechanism to assist countries to fulfil the Central American Peace Agreement. In addition to emergency relief, the Special Plan supports a legal framework for the protection of refugees and displaced people on which UNDP is collaborating with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights. Displaced populations are assisted under a process that was begun by the donor-funded International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) and that enables them to buy land for resettlement. Rehabilitation and reconstruction activities for war-affected populations are supported under a Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE). These programmes use a participatory approach to enable people to meet their needs in terms of health, nutrition, housing, education, agriculture and other productive employment, thereby rebuilding the social fabric.

37. Different activities have been funded in each of the Central American countries. For example, in Guatemala, the Centre for Human Rights has been providing advisory services and technical assistance in a number of areas, such as the elaboration of legislative texts concerning indigenous populations and support to the activities of the Guatemalan Human Rights Procurator. In addition, the Centre for Human Rights supports a delegate in Guatemala of the Independent Expert of the Commission on Human Rights, who verifies the procedure for the repatriation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico, a process also supported by UNDP. A United Nations Volunteer assists in gender concerns, working with Guatemala's Human Rights Office, where the deputy Ombudsman is responsible for the human rights of women.[26]/

38. In Nicaragua, UNDP has helped to strengthen the judiciary as a step in the national post-war reconciliation and reconstruction process.[27]/ In December 1991, it was ascertained that 90 per cent of the judiciary lacked a professional background. The Supreme Court, in cooperation with the universities, is overseeing a project to depoliticize the judiciary and to restore public confidence in the system. The universities will educate law students and arrange seminars to train 150 judges and 300 law clerks. Moreover, courts that had been destroyed are being rebuilt throughout the country and

provided with law libraries and facilities for forensic research. A 1991 international conference on the judiciary held in Managua maintained that as much as one per cent of state budgets should go to the judiciary. The presence of adequately remunerated, trained professionals will help to restore public confidence in the rule of law.

39. In El Salvador, the peace agreement called on UNDP to assist the Government in mobilizing external financial and technical support, preparing projects and programmes, and harmonizing the activities of NGOs in local and regional development. UNDP helped to formulate a $1 billion national reconstruction plan, coordinate aid for reconstruction, provide emergency humanitarian relief and contribute technical and administrative expertise to new democratic institutions.

40. A key component in the peace agreement and national reconciliation process was the establishment of a Truth Commission under United Nations auspices to investigate the worst human rights violations committed during the war. It issued its report in March 1993. Another main component was the establishment of an ombudsman's office with a broad mandate to supervise the human rights situation in El Salvador. It investigates human rights violations, assists the victims, promotes judicial and administrative remedies, inspects prisons and gives opinions on proposed legislation related to human rights. The United Nations team in El Salvador, Observadores de las Naciones Unidas en El Salvador (ONUSAL), includes a human rights division, which is cooperating closely with the Ombudsman's Office and helping to train personnel. The Office is expected to assume many of ONUSAL's current human rights verification functions.

41. Another component of the peace agreement was the establishment, under ONUSAL supervision, of a national civilian police force to be trained in a new Public Security Academy as a means of reintegrating combatants of the FMLN (Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional).

42. In February 1992, the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN asked the United Nations to help with an emergency programme for the reintegration of 8,500 FMLN combatants. UNDP helped to coordinate the response of the United Nations system and bilateral donors and launched an emergency appeal for aid for food, health care, education and vocational training, infrastructure and funding for land transfers. Some of the implementing bodies included international NGOs, such as Médecins sans Frontières and CARITAS. The programme also included literacy classes and basic accelerated education for about 2,600 ex-combatants, with the support of a local NGO. An evaluation found that the emergency programme accomplished and, in many areas, exceeded its aims.

43. Such programmes are an important aspect of consolidating peace and human rights through development. The extent to which the peace and reconstruction process in El Salvador has been

consolidated will be tested by the elections, planned for March 1994, in which the FMLN will participate as a political party. The elections are being arranged by a newly created Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which has received technical cooperation through UNDP and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Unit (EAU) in order to manage a transparent process.

Cambodia

44. In Cambodia, one of the principal goals of the peace agreement is to ensure a neutral environment during the transitional period leading up to elections. Emphasis has been given to promoting a human rights culture and to strengthening emerging national human rights organizations to prevent any recurrence of past events.

45. The development and implementation of a programme of human rights education figures among the tasks of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and a trust fund has been set up for this purpose. The programme covers schools, universities, lawyers, lay people, NGOs and officials in public administration and is actively supported by the Centre for Human Rights, which has also financed the publication of educational materials and the production of audiovisual materials. The main human rights instruments have been translated into Khmer and widely distributed to the Cambodian population.

46. The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme of UNDP has assisted UNTAC in the dissemination of human rights information throughout the country and has supervised the implementation of the human rights curriculum in secondary schools and teacher training colleges. UNVs have also assisted provincial human rights officers to conduct investigations of human rights abuses and to undertake regular prison visits.

47. In preparation for the elections, the Centre for Human Rights produced an analytical report on legal, technical and human rights issues arising from the draft electoral law for Cambodia. Special emphasis was placed on the legal guarantee of the fundamental rights that are seen as prerequisites for fair elections, gender neutrality in drafting language, provisions for maximum enfranchisement, avoidance of the discriminatory applications of laws, and respect for freedom of expression. A large-scale campaign, using the services of 700 UNVs, has been launched to address the general public on the purpose and the importance of the 1993 elections.

48. In addition to supporting these programmes, UNDP has supported UNTAC in the urgent reintegration and rehabilitation of refugees during the transitional period. Cambodia, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is coping with the ongoing resettlement and reintegration of 700,000 persons, comprised of approximately 380,000 refugees, 140,000 ex-soldiers and 180,000 internally displaced persons. Since national reconciliation is the main objective of the UNDP assistance, the reintegration and

rehabilitation efforts target the overall community where returnees are being resettled.

49. At its last session, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to ensure a continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia after the expiration of the mandate of UNTAC through the operational presence of the Centre for Human Rights in order to assist the new Government of Cambodia, for example, in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments as well as to contribute to the creation or strengthening of national institutions and NGOs for the promotion and protection of human rights.[28]/

B. Electoral assistance

50. The right to take part in government through periodic and genuine elections is a human right consecrated in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Experience has shown that successful elections are those that are part of an overall democratic process that guarantees the full participation by citizens in the political life of their country, thereby ensuring the effective enjoyment by all of a wide range of human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural.

51. All country requests for United Nations assistance in the electoral process are channelled through the United Nations Electoral Assistance Unit (EAU).[29]/ The United Nations Resident Coordinators assist the Secretary-General and the United Nations family in providing coordinated support in this area. They may be requested by the Secretary-General to perform a variety of functions, such as following and reporting on the electoral process, supervision, verification, supporting observation missions, assisting in the organization and conduct of elections and other technical cooperation activities.[30]/

52. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/137, UNDP has established an Electoral Trust Fund, which is co-managed with the EAU to support needs assessment missions, workshops and studies. UNDP has also established an electoral administration project to fund missions to donor countries and recipient States and networking with national and international NGOs or inter-governmental organizations to share experiences in electoral assistance. The project has funded training, needs assessment missions, and a donor conference on electoral assistance. In the area of electoral assistance the United Nations system works closely with IGOs and NGOs, which play a very important role before, during and after elections to sustain the process of democratization.

53. Since 1990 the Centre for Human Rights has provided upon request assistance in connexion with elections in seven countries in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. This has included the legal and procedural analysis of electoral and related legislation, the

training of officials involved in the election process and assistance in civic and voter education. The Centre's involvement in electoral assistance is based upon the human rights content of the electoral process itself and upon the understanding that the successful carrying out of free and fair elections depends upon the enjoyment of such rights as freedom of association, assembly, expression, movement, information and opinion, on an absence of wide-spread fear or intimidation, and on the practical implementation of the provisions of the electoral law. While the Centre for Human Rights does not provide logistic or material support for electoral assistance projects, it can contribute to those components of such projects that have a specific human rights element.

Cambodia

54. At the request of the Electoral Assistance Unit, the Centre for Human Rights prepared in June 1992 an analytical report on legal, technical, and human rights issues arising from the draft electoral law for Cambodia. The report contained a number concrete recommendations regarding, among other topics, the clarity of drafting language, the structure for electoral administration, the registration process, the polling process, restrictions on parties and candidates, media access, and election petitions. Special emphasis was placed on the legal guarantees for fundamental rights seen as prerequisites for fair elections, gender neutrality in drafting language, the need for detailed administrative instructions, provisions for maximum enfranchisement, accommodating workers, young and disabled voters, avoidance of discriminatory application of laws, and respect for freedom of expression in the draft legislation.

Ethiopia

55. The United Nations experience in Ethiopia illustrates the range of technical cooperation necessary for the electoral process. After the collapse of the Mengistu regime in May 1991, a broad-based transition began. The transitional National Conference was scheduled to govern the country until mid-1993. The National Charter includes commitments to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to seek an end to armed conflict, to respect the self-determination of regional nationalities, to establish local and regional councils, to prepare a draft constitution, to hold multi-party elections by the end of 1993, and to hand over power to the majority party in the newly elected assembly. UNDP provided consultants to give advice on the drafting of an electoral law.

56. Technical cooperation was provided to strengthen the capacity of the Electoral Commission to organize and administer free and fair elections and the participation of international observers. UNDP also provided logistics experts to help set up 33,000 polling stations. A revolving fund was set up to cover transportation expenses so that the 400 members of the Joint

International Observer Group could be placed in local communities. Logistical support to the observers, which was administered by UNDP, included briefing materials, instructions for the observers, procedures for complaints, deployment during election day and assessment of the security situation in the various regions of the country. The Centre for Human Rights has received a request form the Government of Ethiopia for assistance in the human rights aspects of democratic elections scheduled for next year. Consultations are currently under way between the Government and the Centre for the purpose of arranging a mission by specialized staff of the Centre to provide advice in this regard. It is envisaged that such a mission will take place during the summer months, and will be closely coordinated with electoral assistance activities already being provided under the coordination of the Electoral Assistance Unit. At the same time, it is expected that further human rights assistance needs will be explored with the Government, to further aid the country in its process of democratic transition.

57. In order to create stable conditions for the elections, armed groups were encamped and interim local police forces were established. Before the elections, the observers undertook visits to the local communities to build confidence in the electoral process among the population. "Snap" elections were held to establish interim councils at the district and local levels who were vested with authority over the local police. International observers and NGOs were invited to observe the local snap elections that were held in June 1992.

58. Parallel to the activities of the electoral process, UNDP elaborated a project covering basic education, training and productive employment for demobilized soldiers in several regions. For example, in the Tigray region, national capacity is being built to execute, administer and monitor a programme for 37,000 ex-soldiers which includes an environmental component relating to soil degradation and desertification. UNDP has collaborated with NGOs in several instances and has supported the relief and welfare efforts of a local NGO, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST).

Haiti

59. Although the situation in Haiti was reversed subsequent to the United Nations-supported elections, the experience in providing technical cooperation contains some valuable lessons. The process began with UNDP technical cooperation to establish and strengthen the capacity of the Provisional Electoral Council in March 1990. In October 1990, General Assembly resolution 45/2 authorized United Nations involvement in the entire electoral process, as well as in security matters, which was crucial to ensure voter participation and the credibility of the outcome. This set a precedent, since for the first time, the operation was being carried out in an independent country without the international dimension that had involved the United Nations in other countries in recent years.[31]/

60. The creation of a favourable climate for the elections was seen as a top priority because of the country's political, economic, social and institutional crises. Two years earlier the Government accepted the proposal by the United Nations Resident Coordinator for a human rights information campaign to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The country's earlier tradition of human rights was revived by the dissemination of an illustrated booklet on the Declaration that had been adapted to the existing culture and produced in Creole. The booklet was distributed country-wide by NGOs. The information campaign also involved massive education programmes on radio and television and in the press. A national drawing competition was held for school children on how they interpreted and perceived human rights.

61. Throughout the process of preparing for the elections, UNDP provided broad-based assistance to the Provisional Electoral Council as well as other logistical and administrative support and verification. After the elections had been successfully concluded, an emergency development programme was launched to consolidate the democratization process through socio-economic development. However, although the embargo on Haiti was lifted, it took approximately six months before disbursements could be made. At present, the General Assembly and the Organization of American States are seeking to ensure that the outcome of the elections is respected.[32]/

Kenya

62. Technical cooperation in the electoral process has also included efforts to ensure women's equal access to this process. In Kenya, UNDP recently provided assistance to enhance media coverage of women candidates and women's issues for the 1992 elections. Assistance was given to the African Women's Development and Communication Network to coordinate interviews of women candidates from all political parties; to monitor and record the progress of female candidates; and to come to the defence of women candidates through the media when they faced sexual harassment from their male opponents. Meanwhile, the National Council of Women organized training in public speaking and mobilization for the candidates and education for women regarding their voting rights. For the first time in the country's history, six women were elected to parliament.

Lesotho

63. In 1991 the Centre for Human Rights, at the request of the Government of Lesotho organized an expert mission to that country in connexion with the Government's decision to organize parliamentary elections. As a result of the mission, a comprehensive report was prepared on the legal, technical, and human rights aspects of planned elections in that country. The report examined the legal and procedural arrangements for the elections, called attention to international standards for free

and fair elections, and cited texts from other jurisdictions in order to provide concrete examples of various modes of application of those standards. The report contained recommendations for further assistance.

64. As a result of those recommendations and at the Government's request two senior officials from the Electoral Office in Lesotho visited the Electoral Office in neighbouring Zambia, where elections had been held recently, to observe at first hand the practical operation of an electoral administration. Training also was provided for the officials charged with the drafting of electoral laws and procedures and a senior legal expert was awarded a fellowship by the Centre for Human Rights to study legal drafting at the Royal Institute of Public Administration in London.

65. Just prior to the elections themselves, and at the Government's request a seminar on free and fair elections and human rights in a democratic society was organized by the Centre for Human Rights in January 1993. The seminar consisted of presentations by international experts on the basic principles of human rights and their relationship to the elections and to democracy. Members of the Military Council, Ministers, judges, army and police officers, members of political parties, members of the university community, principal secretaries, church authorities, the media, non-governmental organizations, and the broader public participated. After a three-day meeting in Maseru, follow-up seminars of one day in duration, each, were held in the heavily populated districts of Mafetena, Mohale's Hoek, Leribe, and Butha Buthe.

66. In addition, and to support the Government's civic education campaign, the Centre for Human Rights arranged for the preparation of an audio-recorded dramatic play, in the Sosotho and English languages, which was developed around the theme of elections and human rights in Lesotho. The original performance took place during the seminar in Maseru and after which audio presentations were held in locations around the country. During the elections held in April 1993, the United Nations EAU coordinated the activities of 120 international observers and reported to the Secretary-General on elections.

C. National capacity-building

67. This section describes programmes and projects designed to strengthen national and regional capabilities to promote and protect human rights.

Mongolia

68. In 1991, at the request of the Government of Mongolia, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights sent two independent experts to assist in drafting a new constitution.[33]/ As a result, approximately 20 articles were added or amended to

conform with international standards on human rights and to guarantee the independence of the judiciary. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights has also financed the translation and publication of international human rights instruments to increase their accessibility to the public.

69. In addition to fellowships for Mongolia's legal personnel, the Centre for Human Rights has worked with an NGO, the International Human Rights Law Group, to formulate and implement a programme to enhance the independence of the judicial system. UNDP is helping to build the capacity of the Mongolian Women's Association to acquire legal competence for the advancement of women.

Colombia

70. Several countries in Latin America have established institutions to protect human rights within programmes for peace and development. In Colombia, for example, efforts to restore peace began eight years ago. To date, 3,500 guerrillas have been demobilized, paramilitary groups have been dismantled and one of the guerrilla movements is now a political party in parliament.

71. In 1987, the Colombian Government set up the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which has received support from a Centre for Human Rights and UNDP joint programme since 1989. The Office actively promotes respect for human rights as part of the peace process, coordinates the work of ministries and public entities for the implementation of human rights policies and acts as a focal point for human rights NGOs.

72. The Office has given particular emphasis to human rights issues as they relate to crime and drug enforcement, political violence and the administration of justice. Regional and local committees for human rights have been established to receive and channel communications on violations. In the cities most afflicted by violence, such as Cali and Medellín, permanent offices have been set up to receive communications on a 24-hour basis and a hotline has been established to cover the whole territory. Human rights have been incorporated in the curriculum of the police academy and training has so far been given to a tenth of the 80,000-member police force and to military personnel.

73. The Office of the Presidential Adviser continuously evaluates the political and security situation in the country and prepares the country's responses to questions raised by international or regional human rights bodies. Its work has enhanced the credibility of discussions on human rights and placed these on the political agenda. The seriousness with which human rights are now taken is reflected by the inclusion of human rights standards in the new Constitution, adopted in 1991. In accordance with the Constitution, an ombudsman is entrusted with promoting, protecting and giving recommendations on human rights.

The Ombudsman is appointed for four years by the Congress from a list of three candidates submitted by the President of the Republic and reports to the Procurator General de la Nacion.

74. An evaluation of the programme was conducted in 1992 by the Government, UNCHR and UNDP. They noted that there had been improvement in the human rights situation and that the Office had strengthened the respect for human rights, obtaining credibility from both Government authorities and NGOs. To further strengthen its work, they suggested that (a) the Office should develop a practical teaching manual for local human rights officers, administrators of justice, the security forces and the police; (b) courses on human rights and the constitution should be incorporated in the school curricula at both the primary and secondary level; and (c) the Office should address key national problems, such as the dismantling of paramilitary groups, terrorism, drug dealing, armed violence, non-enforcement of the law and corruption.

Paraguay

75. Human rights institutions are also being supported in Paraguay, which is undergoing a transition to democracy that includes presidential elections, held in May 1993. After general elections in May 1989, the Paraguayan government requested technical cooperation in the field of human rights and a United Nations Centre for Human Rights and UNDP country programme was begun.[34]/

76. The General Office on Human Rights was set up at the Ministry of Justice and Labour to implement the programme and to serve as a focal point and documentation centre for NGOs. The Office works to incorporate international human rights standards into the constitution and national legislation and assists in formulating state reports to human rights committees. To date, over 20 laws have been reviewed to ensure compatibility with international standards. For example, penal procedures now provide for oral and public hearings, in line with these standards. For the first time in decades, the Attorney General has been empowered to receive and act upon communications concerning human rights violations. Paraguay has also ratified several international instruments on human rights and refugees, for example, the American Convention on Human Rights, and has recognized the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights. Moreover, the administration of prisons has been reformed to conform with international standards.[35]/

77. The Centre for Human Rights and UNDP have provided consultants, fellowships and relevant documentation and have assisted in the preparation of manuals and in the organization of national workshops, human rights training and a national promotion and awareness campaign. Human rights organizations and NGOs will be strengthened under the programme. In order to increase knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, juvenile elections were held in 14 departments in 1992.

78. Alongside these efforts, UNDP social and economic programmes are targeting women as well as vulnerable groups, namely, children, indigenous peoples and the disabled. Indeed, in recent years, the country has shown sensitivity to the rights and needs of over 100,000 indigenous people. The Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous People, the Human Rights Office in the Ministry of Labour, the Lower House of Parliament, UNDP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) jointly sponsored a seminar to disseminate the contents of the 1969 ILO Convention on Indigenous People.

Romania

79. In Romania, as part of a long-term programme of advisory services, the Centre for Human Rights provides support to the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, which was established by the Romanian Parliament as an independent body in 1991. The assistance includes financial and organizational support as well as assistance in education, training, research and documentation. The Institute functions as a focal point for the promotion of a human rights culture, which is being reinforced through comprehensive human rights training targeted at civil servants at all levels.[36]/ To date, 300 professionals have been trained, many of whom will be in a position to train others.

80. The long-term country programme of advisory services includes providing expert assistance in the legal and technical aspects of democratic elections, assistance in the drafting of the Romanian Constitution, a seminar on international human rights standards for the Supreme Court judges and the presidents of the District Courts of Appeal and a briefing on the United Nations and human rights procedures for Romanian NGOs. Under this programme special fellowships for human rights studies are awarded and a training course, educational seminar or other activities sponsored by the United Nations takes place on average once every two months.

81. Prior to the national elections in 1990 and 1992, the Centre for Human Rights provided advice from international experts regarding the legal, technical and human rights aspects of local, parliamentary and presidential elections. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bucharest, who is also the UNDP Resident Representative, was asked to organize a team to follow the elections in 1992 and report to the Secretary-General. A staff member of the Centre for Human Rights, with specialized knowledge in the area of elections, participated in that Team, and the drafting of the report to the Secretary-General.

82. UNDP has worked closely with the Centre for Human Rights to support the Romania programmes as well as to reflect a concern for human rights and democracy in its development assistance. UNDP organized a round-table on change, systems and people and supported efforts to establish an independent media. It also helped to develop a strategy for the improvement of human resources and the protection of the environment.

83. Broad country programmes for strengthening national means to promote and protect human rights have been developed with regard to eight other countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Regional

84. Regional institutions can make an important contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and merit international support. The following three examples illustrates ways in which such support can be given.

African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights

85. The African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights was established pursuant to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted by the Organization of African Unity. The Centre for Human Rights has consistently supported the African Commission in the area of capacity building and publications. In 1992 the Centre for Human Rights provided funds for staff, and infrastructure and to plan for the establishment of an information and documentation service within the Commission's Secretariat for the purpose of collecting documents, undertaking studies and research on African human rights problems, organizing seminars, symposia and conferences, and disseminating information.

Arab Institute of Human Rights

86. The Centre for Human Rights has assisted the Arab Institute of Human Rights at Tunis since its creation in 1989 by establishing a documentation centre to promote human rights in the Arab world, as well as through the dissemination of information. The Centre is represented on the Institute's Executive Board and participates in its annual session. In 1992, on the basis of an agreement for technical assistance signed in November 1991, the Centre provided to the Institute documentation about the activities of United Nations human rights bodies as well as financial support for the activities of the Institute, such as the dissemination of human rights concepts, studies on human rights in general and in the Arab world in particular, training courses and seminars on the application of human rights in various fields, for instance the administration of justice.

African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

87. The Centre for Human Rights within the framework of its programme of co-operation with the government of the Gambia, has since 1989 been supporting the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies located at Banjul. This has included the co-organization of seminars and training courses, support for infrastructure and documentation.

Discrimination

88. International standards relating to the elimination of discrimination, in particular on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic origins, etc., are central elements in the activities of the Advisory Services Programme. Special emphasis is given to dealing with discrimination against minorities, migrant workers, indigenous populations and discrimination based on race in the training and education activities which includes sensitivity training in these matters for judges, lawyers and others.

Women

89. In several countries, national capacity is being strengthened to ensure the human rights of women. During the 1975-1985 United Nations Decade for Women, many States established national mechanisms to promote women's rights and participation in development. UNDP has increased its support to these bodies with funds made available for its 1992-1996 programming cycle. For example, assistance has been extended to the Women's Ministry in Pakistan and to Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Seychelles to integrate gender concerns into their national plans.

90. UNDP and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) have worked with partners within and outside the United Nations system to end gender blindness in the development process, one of the main obstacles to women's participation. They have organized and funded training programmes for their staff and development counterparts and funded gatherings and studies to review policies that impede women's access to development.[37] Gender related issues are an integral part of the subjects dealt with in the various training courses and seminars organized by the Centre for Human Rights.

IV. SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

91. Based on the review of technical cooperation for democracy and human rights as part of the development process, some observations and tentative suggestions are presented below.

(a) Experience has shown that holistic programmes that aim to build capacity in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of human rights promote sustainable development. Such programmes are part of a long-term process and require national and international commitment to be sustained;

(b) Human rights country programmes have resulted in increased ratification of and adherence to human rights instruments while training for law enforcement officers and the judiciary ensures better respect for the rule of law;

(c) Education and training are essential components in the

creation of an enabling environment to promote human rights. Consequently, emphasis should be given to incorporating human rights education into school curricula. Among other results, this can help people to understand and respond to violations of human rights, such as racial discrimination, lack of security, violence against women, and denial of access to the development process for the disadvantaged, particularly poor women;

(d) Technical cooperation to strengthen the institutions that are part of civil society taps resources for positive change. An active civil society encourages State efforts to honour obligations to international conventions and to their people;

(e) People's participation in formulating, implementing and evaluating development programmes is an important dimension of the enjoyment of human rights. Such participation can help to assess the impact of development and prevent human rights violations;

(f) A gender-blind approach to development perpetuates women's inability to ensure the exercise of their human rights and accounts for the very small number of women in the governance of their countries as well as in other civil, social, political and economic fields. Intensive efforts should be made to overcome the causes of gender blindness in development;

(g) To incorporate human rights concepts into the mainstream of development activities, training should be given to national and international civil servants. This will help to ensure that the human rights dimension is taken into account in their daily work;

(h) Technical cooperation helps to establish and strengthen the capacity of national institutions and programmes to promote the enjoyment of all human rights. Such support may target:

(i) Institutions in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government;

(ii) Independent national human rights institutions whose mandate may include some or all the following; supervision and verification of implementation of human rights instruments, channel allegations on human rights violations, carrying out investigations, providing legal aid, making recommendations on legislation, which contribute both to personal security and social stability;

(iii) National and regional research, documentation and training centres to enable implementation of international standards and achieve national progress over the medium and long term; and

(iv) The institutions of civil society, including NGOs, women's organizations, trade unions, professional

associations, community groups, the academic community and the private sector.

(i) The absence of indicators to assess progress in the implementation of human rights makes relevant project design and evaluation more difficult. To date, an obstacle to designing indicators has been the lack of basic information, a problem that technical cooperation can help to overcome through the building of baseline data.[38]/

(j) Free and fair elections require not only political will from those in power but also technically adequate electoral administration mechanisms and respect for a number of basic human rights. Electoral inexperience, lack of resources and deep-rooted mistrust are three major obstacles to such elections. Technical cooperation can build the capacity of independent and impartial national institutions to organize the elections, thereby enhancing the credibility of the electoral process. The following are elements of a successful electoral process:

(i) For increased success, certain prerequisites need to be met, such as a national pre-election agreement of all parties to respect the process and its outcome; appropriate constitutional and legal instruments; an active programme of human rights education; transparent census and voter registration; steps to ensure the security of candidates and voters; freedom of movement, assembly association and expression and an atmosphere generally free of intimidation; an assessment of popular awareness and support for the elections; and a prompt announcement of results to maintain confidence in the process;

(ii) When the United Nations is involved, it is important to make its role in the electoral process clear to the people at all times;

(iii) The assistance provided should be adapted to local economic and cultural conditions so that it can be sustained by national authorities in the long term. Moreover, recently-initiated democratic processes may need to be complemented by social and economic development programmes that can be executed immediately after the elections with financial and technical support from the international community. Otherwise, democracy may become an early victim of government inability to handle economic problems successfully.

(iv) Technical cooperation for the electoral process may have to be extended during the period between the first election and the next scheduled election. Democracy needs time to take root and the success of the electoral process can only be judged after the second election. Only then is it possible to assess whether the institutions created are functioning well,

whether the process is fair and free and the results reliable.

92. From the above, it is clear that human rights and democracy are increasingly seen as part of the effort to achieve socio-economic development. This development must be sustainable in cultural, political and economic terms. International technical and financial cooperation in development areas related to democracy and human rights can make a significant contribution to reaching this goal. This will involve additional funding to promote development work in these areas and closer collaboration, both conceptual and operational, within the United Nations system, particularly, where appropriate, between Centre for Human Rights and UNDP programmes.

93. Greater account must be taken of human rights standards in national and international policies and programmes aimed at ensuring better living conditions, wider choices and increased personal security. This is the major challenge for the 1990s.

1. Item 10 of the provisional agenda contained in the annex to General Assembly Resolution 47/122 of 22 February 1993. The General Assembly decided to convene a high-level World Conference on Human Rights, as noted in its Resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990. This was reaffirmed in Resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991.

2. The experience in several countries was reviewed and a representative sampling that illustrates mechanisms and forms of technical cooperation has been included in this paper. See annex for the material consulted.

3. See Articles 55 and 56 of the United Nations Charter.

4. The Proclamation of Teheran, adopted on 13 May 1968, paragraph 2; see also ECOSOC Resolution 1503, which lays out procedures dealing with communications concerning systematic and gross violations of human rights.

5. E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/16, para. 26 - 27. This is also elaborated in E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/19, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/19, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/17. See also Oscar Schachter, "Human Dignity as a Normative Concept", 77 American Journal on International Law 1983, pp. 848-854.

6. The Human Rights Committee was established pursuant to article 28 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was established by ECOSOC Resolution 1985/17.

7. See General Comments No. 2 and 3 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, HRI/GEN/1.

8. Individual communications can also be examined under such conventions as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

9. These include the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Labour Organisation's Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. They have also been reinforced by regional conventions, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the American Convention on Human Rights.

10. A/CONF.157/PC/42 para. 55.

11. The Challenge to the South, Oxford University Press, 1990, pp. 11-12.

12. A/45/427.

13. The right to development was later referred to in the 1969 United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development.

14. General Assembly Resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986.

15. Article 2 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which is a binding treaty on those States that have ratified it, also sets out the obligations of States at the national level.

16. See Articles 2 (3), 4 (1) and 6 (3) of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development.

17. E/CN.4/1991/9/Rev.1; HR/Pub/91/2.

18. See Note 7 above.

19. See Philip Alston, "Revitalising UN Work on Human Rights and Development", 18 Melbourne University Law Review, 1991, p. 216-256; James C. N. Paul, "The Human Right to Development: Its Meaning and Importance", 25 John Marshall Law Review, 2 1992, pp. 235-265; Gudmundur Alfredsson, "A Possible First Step in the Implementation of the Right to Development", 3 Mennesker og Rettigheter, 1987, pp. 78-81.

20. See E(CN.4/1993/61

21. See the UNDP Human Development Report 1992 for a description of international barriers to development. It is worth noting that the Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights also enumerated several international conditions that, together with national conditions, affect the observance of human rights (A/CONF.157/LACRM/15, A/CONF.157/PC/58). See also the Tunis Declaration of the Africa regional meeting on human rights (A/CONF.157/AFRM/14, A/CONF.157/PC/57).

22. In the four Human Development Reports published to date, it is suggested that data be desegregated by gender, poverty, ethnic, regional and other factors in order for it to serve as the basis for sustainable, people-centred development plans and budget allocations. The reports have also focused on what can and should be done at the national and international levels to ensure sustainable human development and they have presented forceful arguments for people's participation in all aspects of the development process.

23. In establishing the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996) of UNDP at a level of $4.6 billion, the Governing Council called for building national capacity for human development in six areas of focus: poverty alleviation and grassroots participation; women in development; environment; technology transfer; management of development; and technical cooperation among developing countries (Governing Council Decision 90/34). UNDP currently has programmes in over 170 countries and territories and has responded to country requests to build their social and economic

development capacity for over 40 years.

24. Commission for Human Rights Resolution 1993/87 of 10 March 1993.

25. A/47/277 S-24111. This linkage was also underlined in his recent report on the work of the Organization (A/47/1).

26. The UNDP country programme for Guatemala has allocated $2.9 million for activities related to human rights, 13 per cent of the total (this includes UNDP country resources and other donor contributions).

27. The UNDP country programme for Nicaragua allocates $14.9 million to activities related to human rights, 21.4 per cent of the total resources available (this includes UNDP country resources and other donor contributions).

28. Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1993/6 of 19 February 1993.

29. Member States requesting electoral assistance fall into three categories: those that have an established tradition of local, regional and national elections; those that have had an established tradition but whose internal system has become flawed as a result of bureaucratic inertia, complex systems or corruption; and those that have no tradition of formal elections and thus no appropriate political institutions and no machinery to shoulder the attendant responsibilities.

30. Organization and conduct can also cover drafting of laws; supervision takes place mainly in the context of decolonization; verification requires the Secretary-General to express an opinion as to the degree of fairness; observation does not require the opinion of the Secretary-General, but it is expected that the presence of an international observer group will have a positive effect; technical cooperation ranges from providing analysis and advice to voting equipment and materials, electronic data processing, voter registration lists, training, civic education, and logistics.

31. It should be noted that UNDP directly supported the first free and fair elections in Guyana, held in 1992, through a project in support of an independent election commission, at the request of the opposition and the international community and with the acquiesence of the then Government. This included voter lists, logistics and training.

32. A/47/908.

33. Similar technical cooperation programmes have been carried out in Albania, Lesotho, Namibia and Romania.

34. The UNCHR budget for this country programme is $300,000 to date. The UNDP country programme has allocated $113,920 to activities related to human rights - an indication that progress

in this area can be achieved with only modest additional funding.

35. Standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners were adopted by ECOSOC Resolution 2076 (LXII) of 13 May 1977 and those for administration of juvenile justice were adopted by the General Assembly in its Resolution 40/33 of 29 April 1985.

36. Courses have included: training in the administration of criminal justice (along with raising awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic) for police officers and prison and military officials from duty stations around the country; a seminar for judges, lawyers and prosecutors on human rights in the administration of justice; and training courses for teachers at the primary and secondary school levels. A seminar on minority rights is being held this year.

37. See report submitted by the United National Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to the World Conference on Human Rights, which notes that "universal and legally binding human rights are often not the rights centrally relevant to the majority of women's lives", and argues for a thorough understanding of the reality of women's lives by the international community so they can achieve their human rights.

38. The initiative by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to link monitoring with dialogue on technical cooperation needs that can be supported by UNICEF is a unique example of how to further human rights standards.

Annex

MATERIAL CONSULTED

In the preparation of this paper, UNDP field offices submitted information on programmes in development areas related to human rights and democracy. UNDP also commissioned six case studies on the subject of human rights and democracy as part of the development process. This material can be made available to individuals and institutions interested in further study of this subject. They are invited to contact PDSD/BPPE, Rm. DC1-2036, UNDP, 1 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

Several reports of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights were also used in the preparation of this paper, and these are available through United Nations Centre for Human Rights Advisory Services, Rm. D-108, Palais des Nations, Geneva 12, Switzerland.

Please see the Notes for the references for all United Nations documents and other material used in this paper.

Case studies commissioned by UNDP

El Salvador - Human Rights, Development and Democracy: Experience of the UN in Post-Conflict El Salvador, by Ms. Margaret Popkin, April 1993.

Mali - Democracy, Human Rights and Development: Mali, by Mr. Bassary Toure, April 1993.

Paraguay - Human Rights, Democracy and Human Development - Paraguay: An Impact Study of External Cooperation in the Context of Democratic Transition, by Mr. Leandro Despouy, April 1993 (available in Spanish only).

Romania - Human Rights, Democracy and Development: Romanian Case Study, Romanian Association for Personal Freedom and Human Dignity, March 1993.

Tanzania- Development as a Human Right: Democracy, Development and Human Rights in Tanzania, UNDP 1961-1992.

Tunisia - Democracy, Development and Human Rights - Lessons from the Field, by Mr. Rachid Driss, February 1993.

Reports transmitted by UNDP field offices

Permission to circulate these reports will be sought from the field offices as requests are received:

Brazil - UNDP report on the Amazon hydro-electric plant project.

Ethiopia - UNDP report on electoral assistance.

Guyana - UNDP report on strengthening the judiciary.

Honduras - UNDP report on state modernization.

Jamaica - UNDP report on state modernization.

Nepal - UNDP report on decentralization.

Sudan - UNDP report on area development schemes, a community participation programme.

Tunisia - Annual report of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, March 1993.

Zambia - UNDP project document on assistance to the Ministry of Legal Affairs in legal drafting.

Zimbabwe - UNDP constitutional law reform project.

United Nations Centre for Human Rights reports

Albania - Report of Human Rights Needs Assessment Mission to Albania, Ms. Peggy Hicks, November 1992.

Benin- Report of Human Rights Needs Assessment Mission to Benin, Mr. Laity Kama, 1992.

Mongolia - Legal Advisory Assistance to the Government of the Republic of Mongolia for the Administration of Justice, 1992.

Sao Tome and Principe - Report on the Needs for Technical Assistance in the Area of Human Rights to Sao Tome and Principe, 1992.

UNCHR reports to the Commission on Human Rights, 49th session, 1993: E/CN.4/1993/61 and Add 1 (used with reference to Albania, Cambodia, Guatemala, Lesotho, Namibia, Mongolia, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe); E/CN.4/1993/19 and Add 1 (Cambodia).

United Nations documents

Haiti A/46/609, A/47/908.